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THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
CHRONICLE

Week of February 20, 2012 Vol. 31, Issue 23

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Sample the world

Cavia Mead
Chronicle Correspondent

The PUC Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) program is preparing to open its doors for another semester of dining and entertainment. If the Feb. 15 practice lab is any indication of what to expect, then it would be safe to assume this well-oiled machine will continue to run smoothly. New themes and décor every week partnered with an ever evolving menu guarantee a unique experience with every visit.

The HTM-492 course is designed to give HTM students a real world example of what it takes to operate a restaurant. Students take different roles from service to management, providing them with a 360 degree view of all the moving parts in the restaurant industry.

"About 70 percent of all restaurants fail within the first year because of poor planning. People don't realize how much it takes. We want our students to leave with a full understanding of how it all works," said program instructor Barbara Henning. She acknowledged this statistic to explain what the program strives to accomplish, pointing out that it is not just about credits, as future success is important as well.

This year's main theme is "Give My Regards to Broadway," meaning each week's dinner and entertainment will feature a famous Broadway play in conjunction with its complementary cuisine.

"We collaborated with the communications department to come up with these themes. On the 15th we'll be doing French cuisine so our students will be entertained when the guests arrive doing scenes and tunes from shows like Phantom of the Opera and Gigi," Henning said.

One can expect excellent service and an atmosphere that rivals any upscale restaurant in the area. Seamless, timely transitions between courses ensure a pleasant dining experience from an always punctual staff. One can also expect a good selection of alcoholic beverages for those who like to compliment their meals with the just the right beer or wine. Perhaps the most shocking detail of all is the price, at only $15 for a four course meal. A night out at a local restaurant franchise could cost upwards of $25. Breaking the mold for something more in-

See HTM page 4

purduecal.edu

The posh dining room of the newly renovated Hospitality, Tourism and Managing Building is open for reservations.

SGA prepares for Spring Elections

Brandon Hayes
News Editor

This May, seven members of the current SGA administration are scheduled to graduate, changing the face of the governance group that has worked hard for the student body at PUC.

SGA Student Body President Jessie Martin said the coming semester will bring a significant turnover to the organization. Martin hopes his administration "has built something that can sustain itself long term."

"It will be a true test of how far the SGA has come and hopefully it will keep its momentum," Martin said. "I hope we've brought attention to the need for the SGA, enhanced student life and student retention."

According to Martin, SGA has been working on more initiatives this semester alone than any other. Some of the initiatives include lobbying for the return of Fall Commencement, assisting in the planning of the new PUC

See SGA page 4

CIVS marches on with new projects and student opportunities

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

Since its opening in the spring of 2009, the Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation or CIVS, has been a place that "combines advanced simulation techniques with 3-D visualization and virtual reality technologies," according to the CIVS website.

CIVS director Chenn Zhou said the center is available to any individual or organization with a need for their services, such as helping identify problems, finding the causes and developing solutions based on their needs."

Zhou added that CIVS has opened its doors to 46 external organizations and 32 PUC faculty members.

"The work and research done in the center addresses issues and challenges relating to energy, environment, education, training, productivity and quality," Zhou said.

Zhou said students have been involved in every project that has been done in CIVS. One of the projects, entitled "Correspondences: Translating Senses from Poetry to Virtual Reality," won a student research award last year. French and political science major Joann Holmen worked on the award-winning project and explained the project was about integrating French poetry with engineering and CIVS technology.

"We started with Charles Baudelaire's poem, 'Correspondences,' known in the literary world for its symbolism and imagery, and created a 3D visualization of it," Holmen said. "We wanted to create a 3D video that one could watch without having to read the poem that would communicate its central message; that of ambiguity in the relationship between the natural and metaphysical worlds."

Holmen worked with CIVS students Nan Yan and Fan Zhang

See CIVS page 4

Photo Provided

Hammond fire department facing budge cuts

Dante Vidal Silguero
Asst. News Editor

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. has come under scrutiny for his decision to de-staff a city fire department ladder truck in order to balance the budget. The truck is one of four ladder trucks owned by the department. When fully staffed, each truck requires nine to 12 firefighters to take up the three, eight-hour operating shifts. The de-staffing of Aerial Truck No. 1 comes as an attempt by McDermott to save thousands of dollars on the city budget.

Jeff Smith, Hammond Fire Department deputy chief has worked for the department for 20 years. Smith said the decommissioned aerial truck was costing the city nearly $1.3 million a year in overtime pay; a sum that divvies out to approximately $25,000 a week.

While the decommissioning of a ladder truck seems a grave loss, Smith assures that the actions taken by both the department's inspection bureau, which regularly inspects Hammond buildings for fire safety, and the response units have not been hindered in any way.

"There has not been a decrease in public safety," Smith stated.

While other local municipalities have had to lay off firefighters and other public workers in attempts to balance their budgets, the city of Hammond has not laid off any firefighters. Instead, the city has reallocated its fire department staff away from positions that were costing thousands of dollars a week to more cost-effective deployments. Smith states that no staff has been lost in the budget cut, but stresses that there have been no recent hires in the department either.

The city of Hammond still has "more aerial trucks than any department north of Indianapolis," according to Smith, and though Aerial Truck No. 1 is no longer fully staffed, it will remain operational and ready in case of an emergency.

The chance of an emergency that would require four fully-staffed ladder trucks is unlikely though, as Smith states that in his

See HFD page 4

ADMINISTRATIVE update

Academic Resource Center is all about helping students succeed

"Our goal is to meet the academic needs of all of our students in a safe and welcoming environment," Deborah Beal said about the Academic Resource Center. Continuing, the center's new manager said, "Our tutors and supplemental instruction (SI) leaders are among the best and the brightest at Purdue Calumet, and they are passionate about their subjects and eager to help."

Free tutoring & supplemental instruction

SI leaders and tutors demonstrate this passion by assisting PUC students inside and outside the classroom with free open lab tutoring and supplemental instruction.

Last fall, 566 students received SI program assistance related to 88 sections of 49 courses. On average, SI students earn more than a half letter grade higher than non-SI students enrolled in the same course; SI students also show significantly higher retention rates.

This semester, the Academic Resource Center (ARC) once again placed about 59 SI leaders in 56 different courses affecting 87 sections. The ARC also offers daily tutoring in math, science, foreign languages, as well as several management, electrical/computing engineering and nursing courses.

SI can help you with a tough course

Supplemental instruction is a proven process of peers helping peers. The goal *is for one student who has already been successful in a particular course* and is able to advance success techniques and perspectives on passing the course help those students who may need further assistance.

Supplemental Instruction leaders differ from tutors in that an SI leader will attend each class session of a particular course/section and then follow up by preparing additional explanation and offering resources to the students in the course during two to three weekly SI sessions.

Open lab tutoring allows for students to receive assistance via answers to their question in a small group setting.

Check out tutoring schedules in Gyte 102

Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Schedules for specific subjects and tutors are available in Gyte 102 or by visiting our website: **http://webs.purduecal.edu/skills/home/latest-schedules/**.

Information on SI sessions is also available. Students may attend SI sessions to receive help in a course even if they are not enrolled in the particular section that the SI leader is attending.

For more information, please stop by the Academic Resource Center in Gyte 102, call **(219) 989-3227** or visit our **www.purduecal.edu/skills**. The Academic Resource Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What's Going On?
A look around PUC...

Power of Paper Workshop
Books, Brushes & Bands for Education and the First Friday Wordsmiths of PUC invite children of all ages 8 to 80 Saturday February 25, 2012 to Poetry Pantry: The Power of Paper & Performance. Workshop conducted on the PUC campus. Each participant is asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item which will be donated to a local food item, which will be donated to a local food pantry. To register, call our office at (219)932-3232 or visit www.bbb4e.org.

Are you smarter than a freshman?
Chance to win Awesome prizes. Sponsored by New Student Orientation. Tuseday, Februrary 28, 12:30pm to 2:30pm in Calumet Falls Lounge, SUL.

Perk Up!
Free coffee and hot chocolate while quantities last. Sponsored by Student Activities. Thursday February 23, 2012. From 8:30am to 10:00am in the CLO concourse.

Tunes @ Noon
Student activities presents Tunes@ Noon. Tuseday, February 21, 2012 from 11am to 2pm in the Oaken Arbor Cafe, SUL. Featuring Scott IBEX.

Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Prep Course
Date: February 22, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m
Location: POTT 334
Details: In order to become a Professional Engineer, one must pass two engineering exams. The first part is the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. After a minimum of four years of engineering experience beyond the BSxE degree, one may be entitled to participate in the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam. Passing of both exams is required for registration as a Professional Engineer. Only Professional Engineers can perform independent engineering in the form of consultation, investigation, evaluation, or design of engineering works and systems.

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at chronicle@purduecal.edu or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

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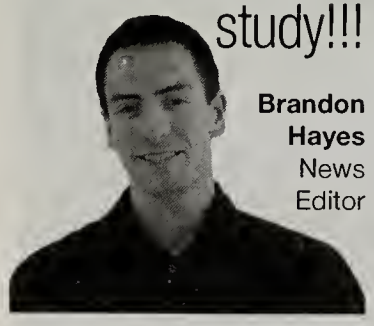
Hey, I'm trying to study!!!



Brandon Hayes
News Editor

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect-, what the heck? Seriously?" Suspenseful drama music plays in the background followed by gunfire and cars screeching away. Sound familiar? This is what I ran into while attempting to read a book in a student lounge.

Whether at PUC or any other place, it is always tough finding a nice quiet spot to study or get homework done. I find myself constantly looking for a better location. Although PUC has many "study areas" and student lounges, they are certainly no place to concentrate in. Most are filled with people having loud and obnoxious conversations, watching movies on full blast without headphones or are generally distracting environments.

The one place on campus where this kind of behavior should not happen is in the PUC Library. My last few dreams of studying there were destroyed by not only loud, but rude people disregarding the rules and upsetting readers as they quietly studied.

During one incident, a group of girls thought it would be appropriate to hold a meeting in the middle of the library, ultimately agitating those around them. After listening to this conversation for more than 20 minutes, a woman who finally had enough of their disruption politely asked the group to quiet down or move to a study room.

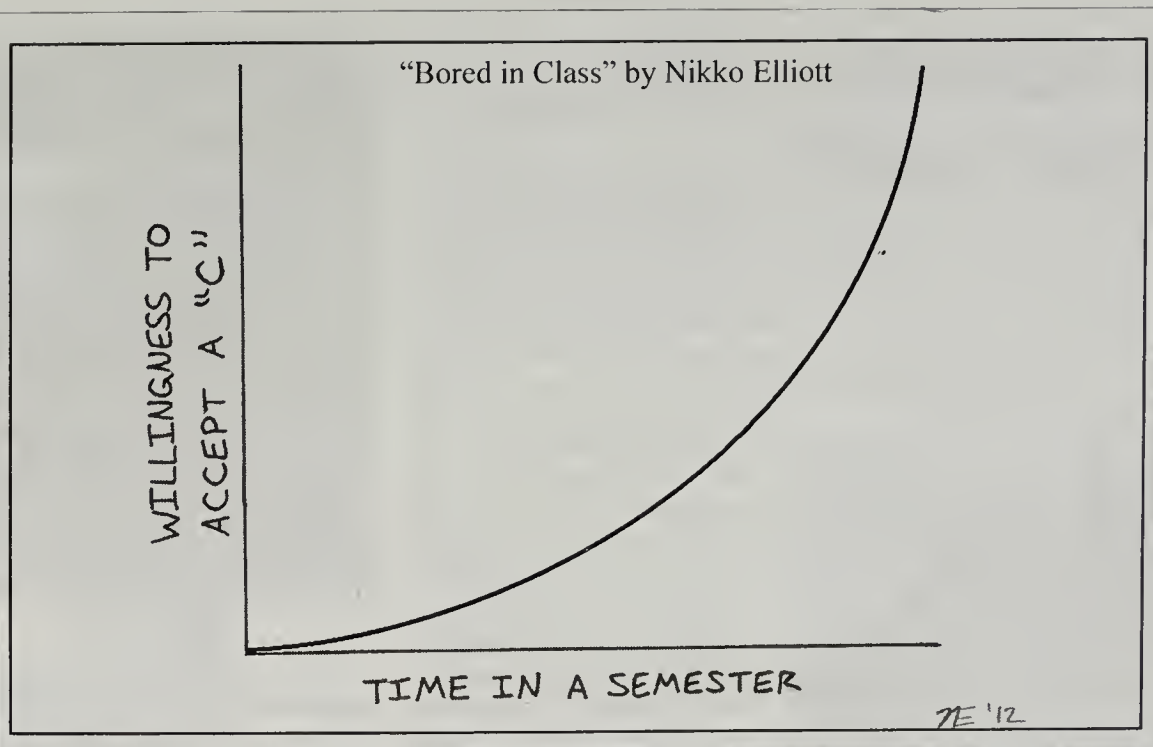
I don't care if it's Valentine's Day, get a room!

The girls responded with rude looks and comments, but eventually got up and left. Another grand study session was interrupted by a couple, colorfully making out a at computer desk, surrounded by other students. I don't care if it's Valentine's Day, get a room!

In the same visit, two men walked through the room using their "outside voices" to talk to one another about fixing computers. As we say to the children at College Mentors for Kids, talk at "level zero." If kids can learn how to do this, so can adults.

I am sure most students have similar stories just like these, which is sad when you think about it. The library workers cannot stop everyone from staying quiet and they should not have to. People need to check themselves at the door and grow up. We all pay good money to go to school here, we should at least be able to get work done in peace and quiet.

Readers can contact Brandon at chronicle_newseditor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.



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Memories are the mother of all wisdom

The issue: ***"One pill to erase your worst memories. Want to try it?"***
Our stance: Memories are what make us who we are today.

"I just want to forget."

How many times have you heard that before?

Whether it is an ex-girlfriend, an alcohol-fueled blunder or a devastatingly traumatic experience, chances are someone you know has something they want to forget.

The front cover of the March 2012 issue of Wired magazine paints the possibility of actually forgetting such memories. Permanently. Jonah Lehrer's article, "The Forgetting Pill," explains that "a new drug can target your worst memories – and erase them forever."

According to the article, most people assume memories are like a video camera, recording perfect copies of events for future playback purposes. The reality is that every time a memory is recalled, it is essentially reimagined and rewritten. While these changes may not be all that noticeable other than perfecting old stories into grand narratives, it does explain how these memories could be deleted with some outside help.

The drug in question, a PKMzeta inhibitor called zeta-interacting protein, would stop PKMzeta from keeping these memories stable. Without the PKMzeta, memories would simply disappear.

"This isn't Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind-style mindwiping. In some ways it's potentially even more effective and more precise," said Lehrer in his article.

But what would happen if we really did forget memories simply because they were unpleasant? "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" would implicate rather reckless, impulse-driven decisions, destroying any remnants of old relationships or job interviews gone wrong without thinking of the full consequences of our actions.

Some of the more devastating memories such as rape or domestic abuse are unquestionably heavy to bear in victims' minds, especially when attempting to try and live out a relatively normal life without experiencing the horrific flashbacks at a moment's notice.

"The problem isn't the trauma- it's that the trauma can't be forgotten. Most memories, and their associated emotions, fade with time. But post-traumatic stress disorder memories remain horribly intense, bleeding into the present and ruining the future," said Lehrer in Wired.

Still, if the drug was ever approved and finalized, the way it could potentially swarm street dealers and youth is utterly terrifying. Considering how easily students will put anything in their mouths on a whim, the sheer amount of clean slates that would magically appear would make any other drug look like a joke.

While there is some merit to forgetting fears or traumatizing events, our bodies remember these things for a reason: to imprint some kind of warning we can both learn and grow stronger from.

Simply forgetting these warnings with a pill seems just as dangerous to a person's life as synthetic drugs or full-on substances.

They are what made us, after all. For better or for worse.

For more information, read Jonah Lehrer's "The Forgetting Pill" in the March 2012 issue of Wired, or visit www.wired.com

COMMENTS?

Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

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And the award for best domestic abuse goes to...

Brian Lynch
Managing Editor

This past week was the 54th annual Grammy Awards. While I don't typically watch award shows like the Grammy's, I'm usually amused by the Twitter chatter they produce. As I was checking the trending topics during the show, Twitter blew up with talk about how great Chris Brown is. All I could do was wonder aloud to myself, "Isn't that the guy who beat his girlfriend Rihanna to a bloody pulp?

Domestic abuse is a topic I take pretty seriously. I have known too many people who have been in abusive relationships to take the matter lightly. If you have the capacity to brutalize someone who loves and trusts you, then in my mind, you are a worthless coward. So to see someone who unapologetically battered his girlfriend the way Chris Brown did, and then just a few years later receive one of the highest honors in music... it sickens me.

Celebrity hero worship is nothing new. We'll gleefully mock a celeb for their drug problems, then declare them a saint and a source of inspiration days later when they're found dead in a hotel room. Sure, Chris Brown can sing and dance pretty well. He's an entertaining performer with a great smile. But none of those *things should outweigh the fact* that he brutally assaulted his ex-girlfriend and then allegedly made public jokes about it. Granted, the Grammy's aren't awarded for having strong moral character, but the last thing someone like Brown deserves is a shiny gold validation for the choices he's made.

Hearing that Chris Brown won a Grammy was enough to get me angry, but the Twitter responses turned that anger into sickness. I came across countless tweets from people not only condoning Brown's actions, but also turning it into a joke. One tweet, which read, "I don't know why Rihanna complained. Chris Brown could beat me anytime he wanted to," made me furious. It wasn't an isolated incident, either. Days later, websites collected similar responses from dozens of Twitter users.

Even if they were joking, and sadly I'm not entirely convinced they were, domestic violence isn't a laughing matter. It's a heinous crime that, according to statistics, affects over 1 million people a year. The victims aren't people deserving of our mockery and indifference; they are our neighbors, our friends and family members. Chances are you know someone who has been forever affected by domestic abuse. Chances are equally good that this person hasn't spoken up about their abuse. And when they see someone like Chris Brown get a pat on the head, who can blame them?

For more information on domestic abuse, visit http://www.domesticviolence.org/

Readers can contact Brian at chronicle_managing_editor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

HFD

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20 years with the department he could only recall one fire that required four aerial trucks.

However, residents and some firefighters of Hammond are worried that the department cuts comes at too high a cost. Sixteen year Hammond resident and PUC physics major Michael Solberg believes that by cutting the ladder truck, the city of Hammond is putting its residents at risk. Solberg was "rather disturbed" when he first heard of the news. McDermott was unavailable for comment for this story.

Photo: Jessica Calhoun

The seemingly vacant firehouse near Kennedy Ave on 169th Street is one of the many stations that fall within the recent budget cuts to the Hammond Fire Department.

CIVS

continued from page 1

and their mentors Jack (John) Moreland (CIVS Senior Research Scientist), Jin Lu (Foreign language and research professor) and Zhou to create the final video. She first analyzed the poem in its original French and came up with an initial 'script' for the visualization. They then met in CIVS to discuss what to include in the video, what was needed in order to express the poem and what was possible with the technology.

"One of the foundational concepts of our project was visualization: the communication of ideas, whether concrete or abstract, through the use of visual imagery," Holmen said. "Visualization allows contact with places and things not usually accessible by other means. Now we've visualized a poem, allowing people to experience and 'see' the poem in a new way. Nan and Fan did all the technology work."

This coming semester, CIVS will continue to crank out new events and projects. Zhou said they are helping to start a new student club called I3DG (Immersive 3D Graphics) and the club will be holding a call-out to include students from all areas. CIVS is also planning a showcase in April for students to demonstrate their projects.

Photo Provided

Zhou said there is also a project under development that will be used for teaching biology courses called Virtual Protein Structures.

Assistant Professor in Biology Radmila Sarac said the protein structures are published, solved crystal structures available in the database maintained by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and they use protein visualization programs to view and examine the structures in 3D.

"For students, the 3D aspects of cell biology can be difficult to grasp. Because protein structures are inherently three-dimensional, it is difficult to demonstrate some of the structural and functional aspects utilizing diagrams and two-dimensional pictures," Sarac said. "Therefore, by adapting the learning environment to encompass technologies such as enhanced 3D visualization, students will gain an appreciation for new, innovative methods available to learn about protein biology concepts and enhance subject understanding,"

Zhou said CIVS has partnered with local companies to solve real world problems and to provide experiential learning opportunity to PUC students. She said the strong partnerships with industry have helped PUC students find internships and jobs and she believes virtual learning will play a role in education and training in the future.

SGA

continued from page 1

Fitness and Recreation Center, working to establish student discount cards (soon to come) and drafting a PUC grievance policy for students who must miss class due to a death in the family or illness.

SGA will hold their annual *Spring Elections beginning the* week of March 5 and will resume the week after Spring Break, March 19.Martin said Elections Packets have been sent to each student via their PUC e-mail accounts, along with the Elections Code, or the rules and regulations for campaigning. All positions will be up for grabs. Students will be able to vote via email or during allotted tabling in the SUL and CLO concourses during elections.

When voting, each student will cast three votes. One vote for the President/Vice President ballot, one vote for the students respective School Senator and one vote for Senator "At-Large." Depending on the residency of the individual, the choice will either be for "Commuter" or "Residential Students."

Out-going Senator At-Large for Commuter Students, Nathyn Gibson, said he would like to see the students gain a better relationship with Chartwells, PUC's food service provider, and said he wants "more SGA awareness." Gibson is recently credited with lobbying for paper towel dispensers around PUC.

Kayla Weck, SGA vice president said the biggest challenge will be figuring out how to run things smoothly while constantly expanding SGA's role here on campus. Weck said she would love for the SGA to eventually be in charge of allocating Student Service Fees.

"My favorite part about working with the SGA is the relationships that I have developed with not only other SGA members, but those with faculty, staff and administration. SGA has allowed me to learn things about myself that I wouldn't have learned if I had participated in another organization," Weck said.

Although SGA has made strides since its reformation in 2009, Martin said he thinks they could have worked more on increasing awareness and engagement with the student body. He said many students on campus are still unaware of SGA. Martin said students should want to work with SGA for a number of reasons, such as gaining leadership experience, working in a professional environment, having the opportunity to work with the PUC administration and most importantly making a positive change on campus.

"If you don't like something here on campus, SGA gives students the chance to do something about it," Martin said.

Interested in applying?

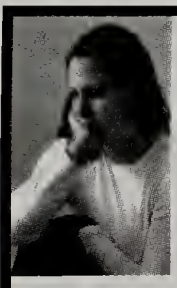
To apply for a position with the PUC Student Government Association for the 2012-2013 school year, e-mail pucstudent.gov@gmail.com or pick up an Elections Packet in the SGA office in SULB, room 324F

HTM

continued from page 1

teresting and cost effect seems the better option.The HTM program just moved into their new facility in August, and while change can be difficult at times, this program does not seem to have skipped a beat. Interesting food, a friendly atmosphere and a well trained staff are just a few of the qualities that make this little gem on the south end of campus worth visiting The above mentioned qualities, coupled with the price, equate to a deal that is just unbeatable, so consider making a reservation early.

Reservations can be made a week in advance and seating begins at 5 p.m. To make a reservation call Jean Rhyne in the HTM building at 219-989-2340. Business casual dress attire is recommended. Cash is the only payment method accepted, so be sure to bring some along with a large appetite.



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Springfield's best

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

Fox's animated classic "The Simpsons" broadcast its 500th episode on Feb. 19.

To mark this milestone, here is a look back at the funniest adventures Springfield's most famous family has had over the years.

"Homer at the Bat," Season 3, 1992

An array of the then-most popular MLB players guest star and fall victim to a laughably absurd array of misfortune before the big softball game. This is a dream episode for any baseball fan, but it has enough humor for non-sports fans to enjoy as well.

"Bart's Friend Falls in Love," Season 3, 1992

Tons of great throw-away gags surround a well-written story of the relationship between Milhouse and Bart. The re-creation of the opening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" is easily one of the top movie references the show has ever made.

"Treehouse of Horror V," Season 6, 1994

The episode begins with a spot-on parody of Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," then follows it up with Homer catastrophically, but hilariously, altering the future via a time-traveling toaster. The final vignette, in which the Springfield Elementary faculty turns cannibal, is a bit of a letdown, but the first two easily make this the best of the yearly Halloween specials.

"Two Bad Neighbors," Season 7, 1996

This memorably goofy outing pits Homer and Bart against their new neighbor, former President George Bush, in a battle of pranks. This is not so much a political satire, but an act of revenge against the 41st commander-in-chief for speaking out against the show early in its run. Mission accomplished on the creator's part.

"Homer's Phobia," Season 8, 1997

See Simpsons page 6

Tatum makes a 'Vow' for McAdams

Jeff Scott
Entertainment Writer

★★½

The new romantic drama "The Vow," starring Channing Tatum ("Dear John") and Rachel McAdams ("The Notebook") takes on the subject of amnesia as a stumbling block in a happy marriage. But, the result is a familiar, humdrum film, despite the fact that it is supposed to be "inspired" by actual events.

Leo (Tatum) and Paige (McAdams) are a happily-married couple living in Chicago. He is a musician who owns a recording studio, and she works as a sculptor. Their lives are thrown into chaos when a snowplow crashes into their car, putting Paige into a coma. When she awakens, she is left with no memory of her husband, remembering only her previous life as a law student and engagement to her old boyfriend, Jeremy (Scott Speedman, from the television series "Felicity"). Despite Leo's best efforts, Paige cannot regain the memory of her life with him and considers going back to her old one. Leo vows to himself to do whatever it takes to make their marriage work again, even if it means starting over and trying to win her heart, as if they were meeting for the first time.

What is surprising about something that is supposedly a true story is how utterly ordinary and obvious it is. Leo and Paige seem like nice people, but that is all. Every character in the movie seems wooden and one-dimensional. While Leo and Paige are strictly good, her parents are depicted as strictly bad, with no "in-between" for all four characters. Paige's mother Rita (two time Oscar winner Jessica Lange) and father Bill (Sam Neill of "Jurassic Park" fame) have been estranged from her for quite some time because she gave up both her law studies and her engagement to Jeremy to pursue a career in the arts and marry Leo. Rita and Bill's disapproval of their daughter's life choices seems to exist for its own sake, rather than any particular good reason.

On the other hand, there is a welcome sense of humor that comes into play from time to time. In one scene, for example, one of Leo's buddies tells him that Paige's amnesia might be a good thing, because she will not remember all the dumb things he has done over the years. In another scene, when Paige and Leo visit her parents, he makes her laugh

See Vow page 6

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www.purduecal.edu/studentactivities

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Register before March 12th in SUL-104B

Vow

continued from page 5

anomalousmaterial.com

Leo (Channing Tatum) and Paige (Rachel McAdams) share a happy moment in "The Vow."

by suggesting that they bring forget-me-nots. The scenes in which Leo tries to court Paige actually seem romantic, but, there is way too much familiar material in the movie overall. All of the conflicts feel as though they come from daytime soap operas, complete with an amnesia story and the ex-boyfriend who is still smitten with Paige. The film's writers seem to be unaware that it is exactly that type of hackneyed storytelling that got all but four of the biggest soap operas canceled.

That is too bad, because director Michael Sucsy excelled in directing another true story: HBO miniseries "Grey Gardens," for which Lange won an Emmy. Sadly, he does not do much with this story to give it anything other than a bland flavor. "The Vow" could have just as easily been made by any other director.

As for the cast, Tatum and McAdams are earnest, effortful and likable in their roles. They also have a chemistry between them that feels real. Veterans Lange and Neill are as solid and dependable as always, despite the fact that they are not given much to work with.

"The Vow" is not a terrible movie. It is not boring, and the actors do well. However, the plain, ordinary story and the director's lack of style do not raise the film too far above a Lifetime network television movie.

Simpsons

continued from page 5

The show tackles male insecurity head-on as Homer fears gay collectible shop owner John (voiced by cult filmmaker John Waters) has turned Bart onto men. This episode explored the issue of homosexuality with a level of humanity uncommon for a sitcom, while still keeping viewers laughing with memorable gags like the gay steel mill and the robot Santa Claus.

"Homer's Enemy," Season 8, 1997

Few characters in television history have made such a lasting impression in just one episode as Frank Grimes, the driven, uptight go-getter who gets paired with Homer at the nuclear power plant. Watching his sanity finally, fatally snap in the episode's final moments is both cathartic and hysterical.

"Viva Ned Flanders," Season 10, 1999

A decade before "The Hangover," Homer and usually-uptight neighbor Ned Flanders had their own memorable trip to Las Vegas, which culminated in the two chums marrying cocktail waitresses. This one churns out gag after gag at a breathless pace.

"Simpsons Bible Stories," Season 10, 1999

The Simpson family travels back to the Old Testament after falling asleep in church. This ribbing of the Good Book contains surprisingly little blasphemy while managing some big laughs for viewers who paid attention in Sunday school, and Homer's vision of Hell is classic.

"E-I-E-I-(Annoyed Grunt)," Season 11, 1999

Zorro, a dueling southern colonel, former president Jimmy Carter, murderous nicotine-addicted farm animals, and a new vegetable called Tomacco all play a part as the Simpson family gives farm life a try. Any one of these would have been funny as just a throw-away gag in any given episode, but stuffing them all into one takes brilliance.

"The Regina Monologues," Season 15, 2003

The show as a whole was starting to go downhill by this point, but the family's trip to England is undoubtedly their best excursion to another country to date. The gags are many and very funny, and the depiction of the UK actually comes close to reality at times.

'Star Wars: The Old Republic' strikes back

Carrie Ohlenkamp
Chronicle Correspondent

★★★½

A battle rages on in the massive multiplayer online role-playing game "Star Wars: The Old Republic," making the anticipation for a new PC "Star Wars" game with great graphics finally over. "Star Wars: The Old Republic" is the predecessor to Bioware's "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic," which was released in 2003. They later released "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II: The Sith Lords" in 2006, which was not made by Bioware. Despite both being critically acclaimed, neither of these games compare to "The Old Republic."

In the beginning, players can choose which faction they wish to play for: the Sith Empire or the Galactic Republic. After choosing a faction, one can choose from up to four different character types on each faction. Each of the eight characters, though they may be on the same team, have different stories behind them. Also, the level cap for each character is 50, making this game one that many will go back to replay for some time.

Rating System

★★★★★	ESSENTIAL
★★★★	EXCELLENT
★★★	AVERAGE
★★	POOR
★	AWFUL

The chat dialogue is different from most online games. Players can choose nice, evil or neutral talk for almost any non-player character in the game. This feature adds to players' decisions to go with the dark or light side of the force. For example, in one instance the player can choose to let a traitor slide by for a crime or to turn a blaster to the traitor's head. Making these decisions opens new gear and quests not previously offered. The drawback of this is if one wishes to stay neutral, a majority of the gear and quests are unobtainable.

"The Old Republic" plays a lot like its big competitors, "RIFT" and "World of Warcraft." However, in this game, time is better spent questing or dueling with light sabers than mining for minerals or trying to gain levels in basic skills. Players can have their companions do these things for them. This gives the player more time to go into fights or quest for a few hours instead of spending mindless hours watching a character swing an ax. These companions also accompany the player on quests and into battle. This, unlike many other games, makes for a better connection to the companion, almost causing the artificial intelligence to feel like a real person rather than a lost dog poorly following its master.

Dungeons are extensive in "The Old Republic." There is a type of game called flashpoints where two to four people can play a smaller dungeon with its own individual story. There are operations (or raids) which multiple people can join. This creates a different experience for each type of dungeon, no matter how many times it is played. The player-versus-player options are also massive. There are three types of maps that can be played when in player-versus-player mode. The graphics for this game are outstanding. When playing player-versus-player though, most of the time is spent watching others fight.

One major drawback to the game is after initially buying the game, it costs fifteen dollars a month to continue playing. If one is a casual gamer, it may not be worth the money each month to play. However, it does come with a free month upon purchase, which is enough to get through some of the main plot, serving as a very expensive trial of the game. Also, one can only do quests so many times before it becomes repetitive. Another drawback is that each character has a different story line, but many of the faction quests are similar.

Overall, "Star Wars: The Old Republic" is worth playing as a longtime fan of the series or as someone looking for a new massive multiplayer online game to play. Between the quests, dungeons and player-versus-player, there are hundreds of hours of game play. The game has so many new places to explore, it makes it hard not want to become a Jedi for a day.

iamgamerz.com

Lasers and spaceships fly in "Star Wars: The Old Republic."

Intramural soccer **kicks** off

Photo: Nathyn Gibson

Inter FC's Sandra Lozano, a freshman in nursing, shoots and scores as Pirlo's Hasan Asiri attempts to block.

Michelle Calhoun
Sports Writer

Soccer, the sport of sports enjoyed throughout the world, will make its way to PUC next year. Fans of the beautiful game need not wait that long to see it played on campus, though.

The PUC intramural soccer season is currently underway, with the first two weeks in the books. Games continue throughout the spring semester on Monday nights at the PUC gym.

PUC's brand of soccer is a little different from regulation. Instead of 11 players playing for 90 minutes, PUC's games are played with 4 players on each team, playing 30 minute games. Such a short amount of time seems to motivate players even harder, as scores are generally higher than they are under regular rules.

A total of 16 teams are competing for the championship, with two games going on at once at different ends of the court.

Last year's champions, Team Saihat, believe they have a chance to repeat as champions. They have backed this up with a good start, winning both of their first two games. On Feb.13, they beat Team FSU by a convincing final score of 10-1.

The first game of the evening saw Inter FC take on Pirlo 21. Every team has a certain method to winning games. Sandra Lozano of Inter FC believes they have a way to success on the field in the way they conserve their energy.

"If we keep rotating players so we don't get tired too fast, we have a better chance at winning," she stated. Her team's performance proved that theory to be right, as they beat Pirlo 21 in a 15-6 drubbing.

Another team that has proven themselves to be strong early is Barcelona. So far they are the only team to score a shutout, which they achieved in their first game when they beat FSU 9- 0. On Feb. 13, they went to 2-0 when they beat Barca 12- 6.

So far, the undefeated teams at 2-0 consist of Barcelona, Kalloon, and Saihat in the East Conference, and Excalibur and African Connection in the West. But at only two games into the season, it is still anyone's game.

Intramural soccer resumes at the gym at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 20.

Fame

continued from page 8

sports training to basketball players around the world. The company has trained with several NBA players, including current Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers.

Simmons was humbled receiving this award, as he had met the man it is named after and knows the honor it carries more than some. During a speech, he related how wherever he goes, he proudly touts the college where he studied and played.

"I feel proud to have played here, graduated and to be able to come back and be a part of the Purdue Calumet family," Simmons said.

Bowling

continued from page 8

Intramural bowling is held each spring semester and is split up into two divisions; one which plays on Tuesday nights and the other on Wednesday nights. The participants play on teams of three or four each and bowl two games a week, working to advance their team's total score.

The score is kept just as it would be in any competitive bowling match. Two teams bowl against each other, and the winning team gets two points for each game they win. Extra points are also given to the team that knocks down the most pins and if one team wins both games.

While it is still early in the season, the standings are already starting to take shape. But for many participants, it is not about the outcome.

"I'm not the best of bowlers," said junior Brandon Fles of the Falcons. "I wanted to have some fun, hang out with some friends and bowl."

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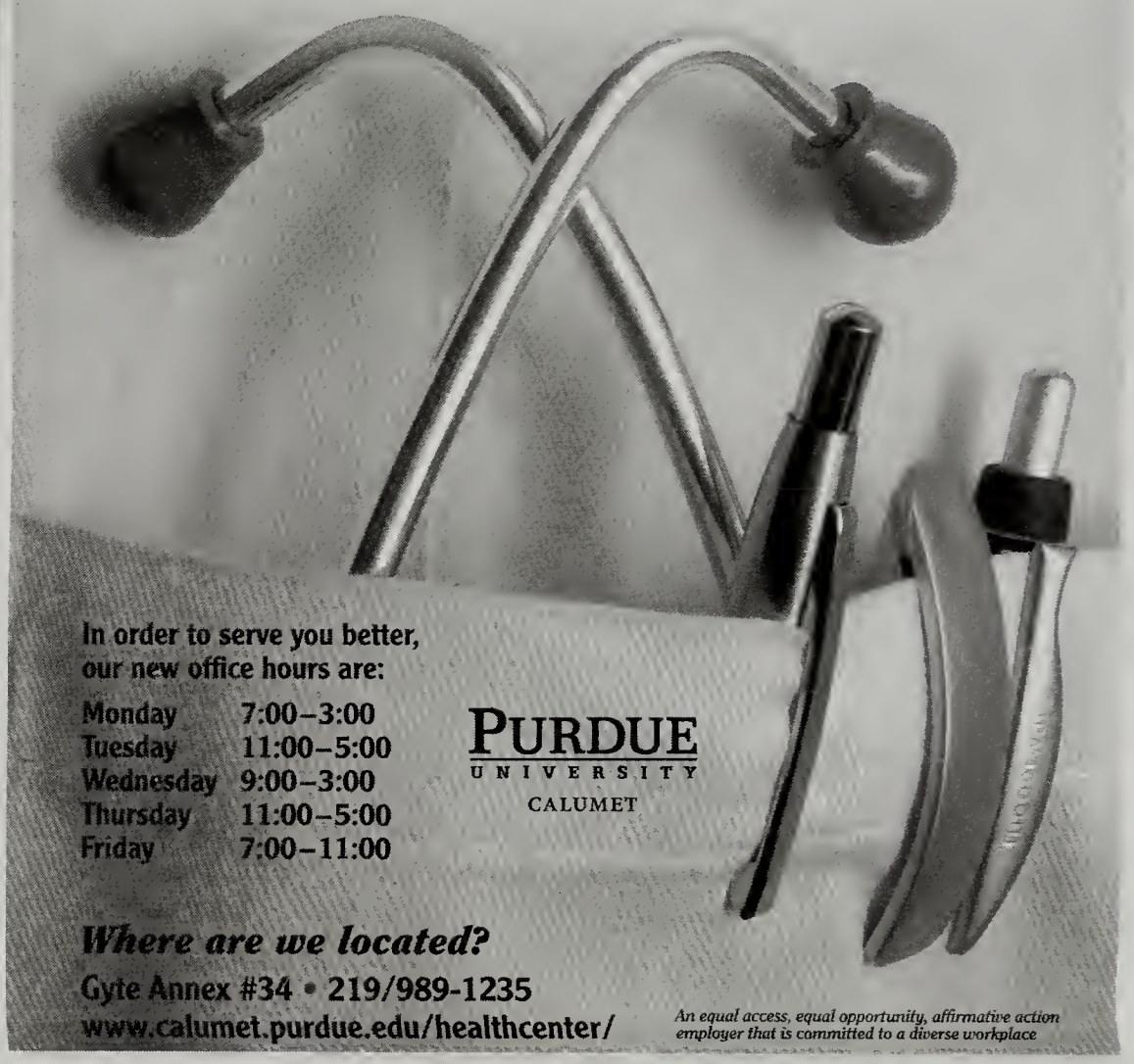

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PUC honors former athletes

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

On Feb. 18, while PUC was honoring its departing senior basketball players, the school also took time to honor its past.

PUC inducted two new members into its hall of fame at halftime of the women's contest against Calumet Saint Joseph. This year's inductees were former women's basketball player Lynn Hevezi, and former men's player Tony Vermejan.

Hevezi was a scoring machine for PUC between from 1985 to 1989, with her 1710 points ranking at second in school history. She set the school's single game record with 45 points, which still stands to this day. She was a two-time AWSF All-American, and two-time All-CCAC.

Vermejan scored 1505 points for PUC from 1982 to 1986, which is fourth in school history. He was a two time NAIA All-District 2, and a NAIA Honorable Mention All-American in his final season.

"I'm very honored and humbled to come back," Vermejan said.

"I'm extremely honored," Hevezi said. "There's a limited number of people who have made the Hall of Fame."

Both inductees expressed pride in their alma mater, and look back on their experiences at PUC highly.

"It brings back a lot of memories," Hevezi said. "I established some good friendships here. They're my best friends."

At halftime of the men's game, PUC presented the Bob Hayes Alumni Athletic Award. The Award, named for PUC's first athletic director, is presented to a PUC alum "who has distinguished themself in the field of athletics or a former athlete who is successful in their career," according to the PUC web site.

This year's recipient was Ben Simmons, who played for the men's team from 1987 to 1992. He recorded 952 rebounds (second in school history), and was an All-CCAC selection.

After graduating, Simmons founded the International Sports Training Institute. ISTI provides

See Fame page 7

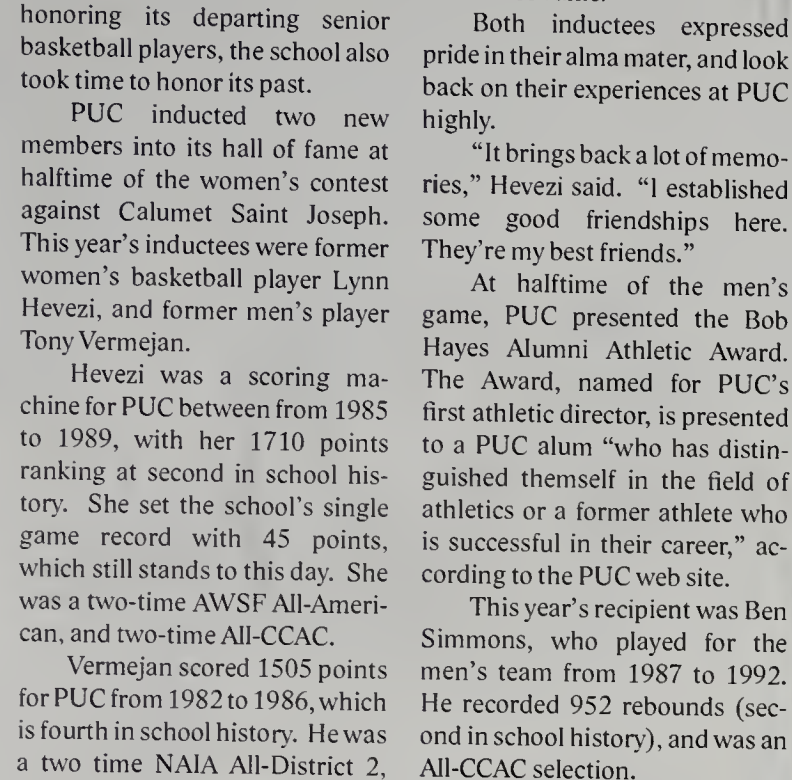

Photo: Nathyn Gibson

Ben Simmons gives some advice after receiving the Bob Hayes award during half-time of the men's basketball game.

Intramural bowling rolls into the spotlight

Julie Sipek
Sports Writer

The PUC intramural program has grown beyond the fitness center over the recent years, expanding the options for students. One intramural competition whose popularity has grown immensely is the bowling league held at Plaza Lanes in Highland.

"We have 20 teams this year," said Intramural Sports Director Matt Dudzik. "This is our highest number of teams we have ever had in the league."

See Bowling page 7

Photo: Morgan Walker

Richard Fabsits gets ready to release the bowling ball in hopes of winning the match at Plaza Lanes on Feb. 15.

Photo: Morgan Walker

Bob Mejia lines up the shot in an attempt to get a strike during the Feb.15 intramural bowling match at Plaza Lanes in Highland.

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SPRING 2012
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Thursday, Mar. 22nd 12:30pm – 1:30pm SUL 321 | Leadership Through Diversity | Linda Knox Director of Affirmative Action Purdue University Calumet
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